



(October 22, 2015)

In order to further improve the lines of communication and to respond to the concerns between the National VA Council and you our members, I have established a National VA Council Briefing. This NVAC Briefing will bring you the latest news and developments within DVA and provide you with the current status of issues this Council is currently addressing. I believe that this NVAC Briefing will greatly enhance the way in which we communicate and the way in which we share new information, keeping you better informed.

Alma L. Lee
National VA Council, President

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In This Briefing: **A MESSAGE FROM THE VA CHIEF OF STAFF: Road to Veterans Day**

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As we prepare for Veterans Day at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), we encourage all Americans to come together to show support and appreciation for the men and women we at VA are honored to serve each and every day.

This year, I would like to remind everyone that more than one third of VA employees are Veterans themselves, and to highlight a few of our amazing VA Veteran employees who joined our Department and brought with them the values and integrity that make our military and our Nation so great.

Matthew Benedict is a Cemetery Representative at Camp Nelson National Cemetery, Nicholasville, Kentucky. Matthew served for 4 years in the U.S. Air Force as a Security Forces Specialist. After college, he came to work at VA because he wanted to use his background to advocate for Veterans and help them understand the VA system.

Brian Hughes is a coach at Education Services at the Muskogee Regional Office (RO). Brian served in the U.S. Army for 20 years in a variety of positions, including Field Artillery Forward Observer and Recruiter. Brian works at VA because he wanted to continue to serve his country and be a part of a team that helps Veterans.

Kathryn Paynter served in the U.S. Navy for 11 years and still serves today as an Operations Specialist in the U.S. Navy Reserves. Kathryn is a Veterans Service Representative at the Huntington RO. Kathryn joined VA because she wanted to fight for all Veterans' benefits and support them when they returned to civilian life.

Gilbert Stubbs has served in the U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Marine Corps Reserves for 16 years and counting. Gilbert's proudest moment was earning his Eagle, Globe, and Anchor upon the completion of the Boot Camp Crucible at Parris Island. Gilbert works at Louisville Veterans Affairs Medical Center because he wants to serve Veterans by improving the systems that provide them with care and benefits.

Each of these Veterans came to work at VA because they wanted to continue their service to our Nation by helping the men and women they served with. These are just a handful of some of the great men and women Veterans who work for VA. All of our employees are important and deserve praise for their work, but for the next few weeks, I ask our leaders to take a moment and thank our Veteran employees for their service to our country.

Thank you for all that you do and best wishes for a great Veterans Day 2015.

Robert L. Nabors II

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